

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing figures 1-6 are being presented as new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing figures 1-6.

The drawing figures 1-6 have been amended by adding a legend, "Prior Art," as requested by the Examiner. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheets which have been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheet of the drawing.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, paragraphs have been amended on pages 1, 34 and 40. to address objections in the Office Action.

Claims 1, 3, 7-11, and 43 are amended.

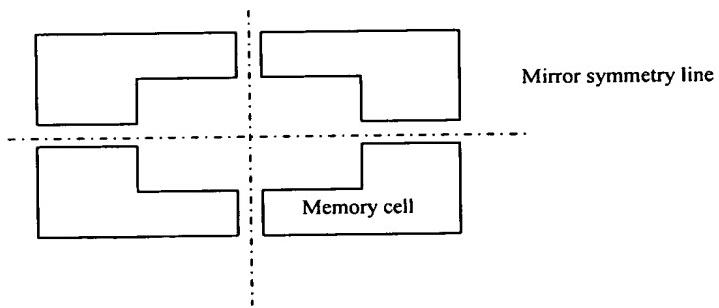
After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-11, 13-27, and 42-44 are now pending for examination. Claims 12, 28-41, and 45-48 remain withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 3, 8-10, and 43 are objected to.

Claims 3, and 8-10 are amended, in a non-limiting way, to correct typographical errors as the Examiner pointed out.

Claim 43 has also been mended to address the issue raised in the Office Action. For the conveniences of the Examiner, applicants point out that this layout is explicitly illustrated in Fig. 30 and is also specified by the following drawing.



Support for above amendments can be found throughout the specification, for example, in Paragraphs starting from Page 35/Line 14 to Page 36/Line 28, and Figures 28-30. No new matter is added. By way of this Reply, claim objections are now moot.

Claim Rejections 35 U. S. C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Ross, Jr. et al., U.S. 5,808,933 (hereinafter ‘Ross’). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite “first access means connected to the first data storage node for reading out data, and storage control means serially connected only to a drive transistor of the second inverter circuit.” Independent claims 7 and 11 have been amended in a corresponding fashion. Ross fails to disclose at least this feature of independent claim 1, or the corresponding features in claims 7 and 11.

For the convenience of the Examiner, applicants point to Fig. 11(B) of the instant specification as a non-limiting example of the device of claim 1. As shown in Fig. 11(B), an additional transistor N5 added to an SRAM is connected to a transistor N2 alone.

Ross does not disclose the above recited feature of claim 1. Ross discloses a memory cell apparatus which has two NMOS transistors 56 and 58 connected in series to each other through a node C, as illustrated in Fig. 5a. It is to be noted that the node C is also connected to a bit line rd (54), and, as a result, the NMOS transistor 56 is connected not only to the transistor 58 but also to the bit line 54 and serves as storage control means. Thus, Ross does not disclose as recited in claim 1, “first access means connected to the first data storage node for reading out data, and storage control means serially connected only to a drive transistor of the second inverter circuit,” and fails to anticipate claim 1, or claims 7 and 11 with corresponding features.

The pending dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 13-27 and 42-44.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Prior Art

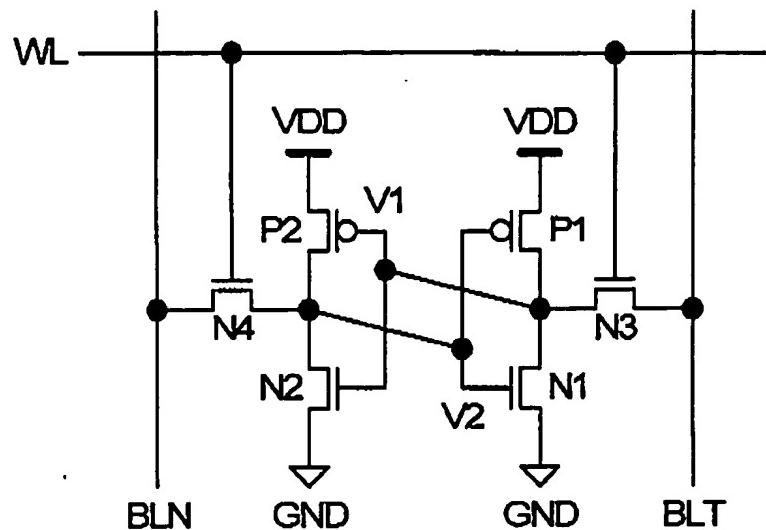


FIG. 1

Prior Art

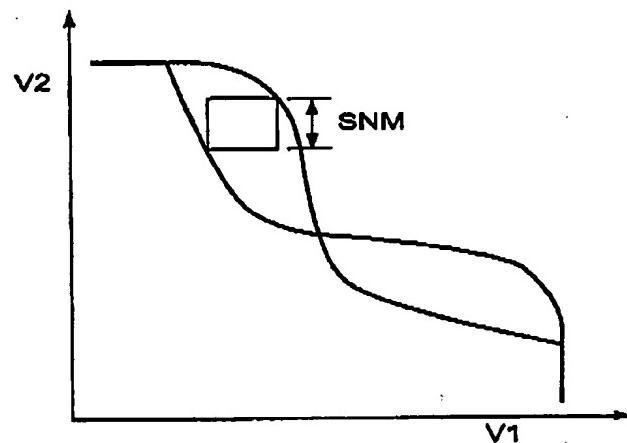


FIG. 2

Prior Art

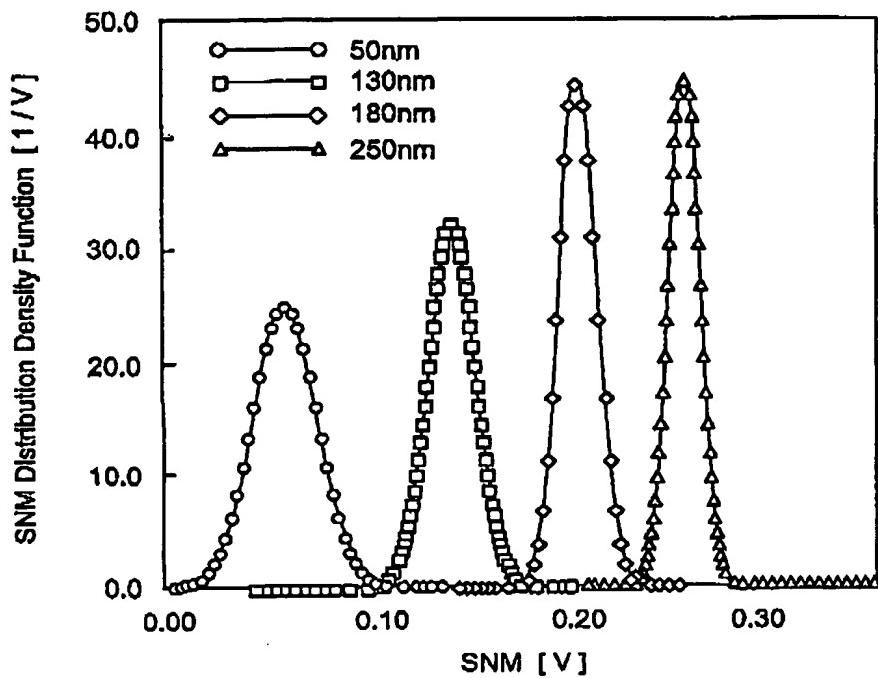


FIG. 3

Prior Art

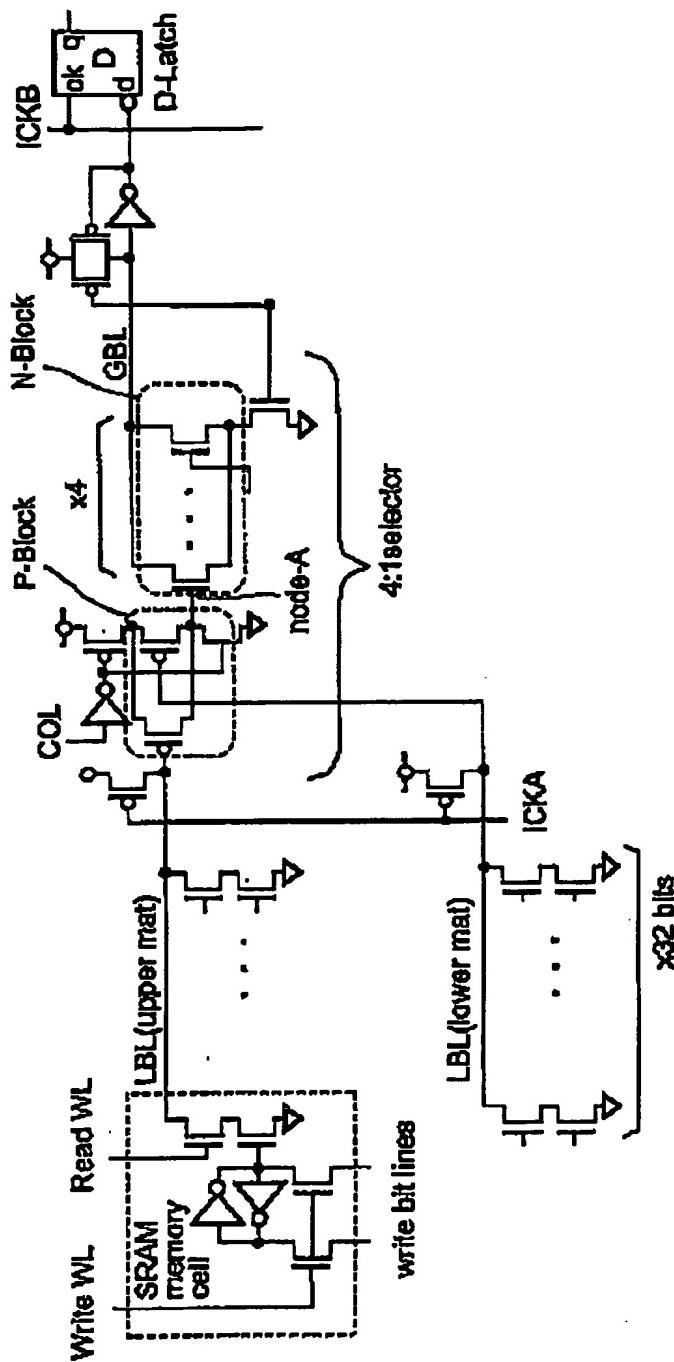


FIG. 4

Prior Art

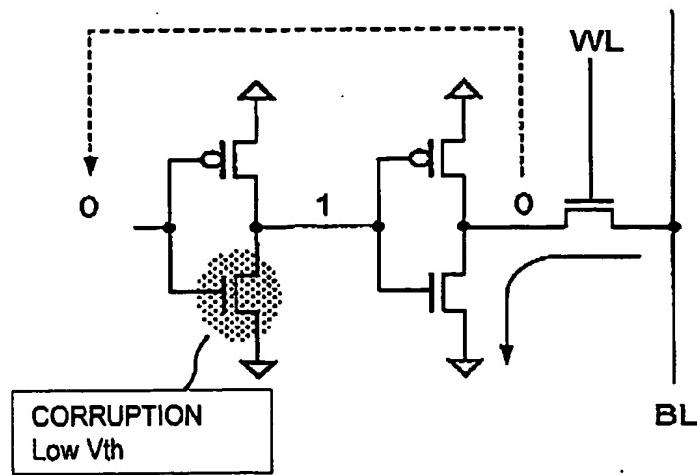


FIG. 5

Prior Art

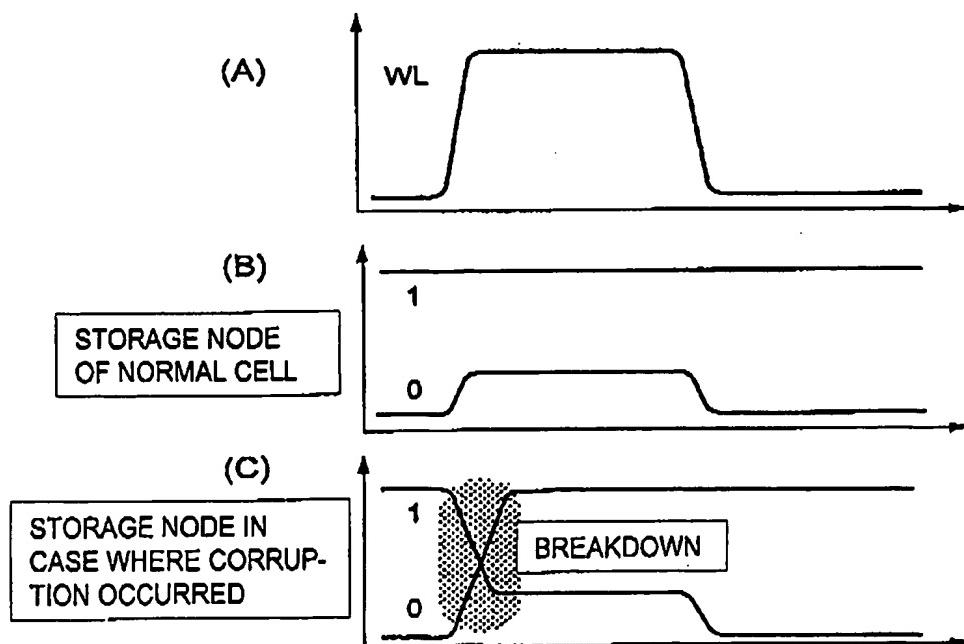


FIG. 6